THE COMIC READER

No. 72

FROM:
THE ACADEMY OF COMIC ART FANS AND COLLECTORS
G.P.O. BOX 449, FLUSHING, N.Y., 11352

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1969

To:

Warren F. Hall
30 Woodland St. Apt. 4J
Hartford, Conn. 06105
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first class!

COMIC FANDOM'S OLDEST NEWSZINE

THE COMIC READER is published 8 times a year (approximately every 6½ weeks). The cost of a single copy is 20¢; if ordering more than one issue the price is 15¢ per copy. All copies are mailed via First Class. Overseas orders(in U.S. funds):- Atlantic: 40¢ per copy; Pacific: 50¢ per copy. All overseas copies sent via Air Mail.
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YEAH! I know! We're late. I've got a lot of excuses; even some legitimate ones. But why should I bother YOU with them??

I'll try to get the zine back on schedule by printing the next 2 issues on a monthly schedule, so the next issue should be mailed around April 4th.

The quarterly Academy magazine won't be published on a quarterly schedule to begin with, But there will be 4 issues published this year. The 1st issue will probably not appear until issue # 74 or # 75 of TCR is out.

Thanks to Robert Schoenfeld for designing and devising our new logo.

If I owe you a letter, bear with me. I'm snowed under at the moment and expect to be so for the next few weeks.

We sent out over 1500 Alley Ballots so far, but have had only about 400 returned. So if you've been meaning to fill out and return your ballot PLEASE DO SO!

I am extending the date for getting in your money for a full year's membership in the Academy to March 12. At present the Academy's membership rolls include about 330 people, with a few new memberships still trickling in. For those people who signed up for partial, end-of-the-year memberships I am starting your membership from the beginning of the year, hoping that you'll eventually sign up for the rest of the year.

For newcomers: The number in the upper right corner of your addressing label indicates the number of the last issue you are to receive under your subscription. The letter "A" signifies that you are a member of the Academy for 1969 and will receive all benefits, including TCR thru issue # 79. If a number precedes the letter "A", that means you have a partial membership up until that issue number of TCR is published.

Back issues: All issues are sold out except Vol. 3, Nos. 2, 3 & 4, which are available at 20¢ each.

Print run for this issue is 800.

I am considering running 2 - 4 pages of ads in TCR per issue. The type of ad would be limited to only full or half-page ads; and advertising only fanzines or Cons. Cost would be $10.00 per full page; $6.00 per half-page. (NO WANT LISTS, please!). For further instructions and acceptance send me a S.S.A.E., but wait two weeks for an answer.

That's it! On to the news.

ON THE DRAWING BOARD

All 12¢ Comics To Become 15¢ers

The big news story this time is that all of the comics publishing companies are raising the price of their 32 page magazines from 12¢ to 15¢, following the lead of the Gold Key group which took this step several months ago.

The change will occur first at National, whose April releases of Action Comics and Adventure Comics will be the first of their line to carry the new price. Marvel's May issues will be their first 15¢ers. All the other companies should follow suit within a week or two of that.

What follows is a bit of commentary and conjecture:-

The increasing of the price of the comics without increasing the page count was the easy way out! It doesn't face up to the true problem facing the industry today, namely that the comic book is the unwanted child of the publishing business. Perhaps because of the very nature of the industry it is clinging to its old, childish ways; well, now it's time for the child to grow up. It can not remain a less-than-two-bit item in a world where four-bits and more is the norm. The medium has to expand, change, find a level where it can stand on its own merits as a product. It has to stop being "JUST" a comic book. It must adapt or die!

There have been several notable attempts to be something different. Notable are Gold Key's 50¢, 192 page, digest-sized comics, and Marvel's 35¢ Spider-Man Spectaculars; but these have the look of something trying to escape. Comic books trying desperately not to look like comic books; but comics all the same. The change must not be made along lines of form, but along lines of format. You already have a saleable product; what you need now is better packaging.

The better package is the giant-economy size; the 64 page 25¢ers. And, speculating, I would say that in the coming months we will see first 25¢ers with a combination of new and reprint material; then well-established, strong-selling 32 page mags becoming 64 page, 25¢ers; and finally, new titles being issued in the 25¢ format.

I am going to make a calculated prediction that, within 18 months of this price rise, the 32 page, 15¢ format will be abandoned in favor of 64 page or larger formats. Now only time can tell if I've just stuffed my foot down my gullet, and am wiggling my toes in vain.

COMICON NEWS

THE 1969 DETROIT TRIPLE FAN FAIR
Admission: $3.00 by mail; $4.00 at the door to: Jack Promo, 4664 Toledo Ave., Detroit, Mich. 48209
Date: June 7th & 8th
Site: Howard Johnson Motor Inn, Detroit, Mich.
Events: Banquet; award ceremonies; panel discussions; movies; dealers tables.

SOUTHWESTERCON 1969
Admission: $2.50 to: Tony Smith, 1414 Lynnview, Houston, Texas 77055
Date: June 20 - 22
Site: Ramada Inn (2525 Allen Parkway), Houston, Texas
Events: Panel discussions; displays; movies.

THE 1969 WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION
Admission: $4.00 to: St. Louiscon, PO Box 3008, St. Louis, Mo. 63130
Date: Aug. 29 - Sept. 1
Site: I do not have this info at present.
NOTE: Although this is a SF convention, lately spin-off mini-cons for associated fandoms (comics fandom included) have taken place at these affairs because many comics fans are attending in ever-greater numbers. Since St. Louis has a large and active comics-fan movement, there probably will be one or more comics-oriented event at this Con.

Dallas is bidding for the World SF Con for 1973, and to insure their bid, the committee is already at work trying to gather a winning number of fans to back their bid. As part of their propaganda, they are mailing out FREE OF CHARGE the Dallascon Bulletin, which will contain articles, art and ads. To get your free copy, merely print, on a post card, your name, full address, and correct zipcode; mail this to: Larry Herndon, 1830 Highland Drive, Carrollton, Texas 75006.

AURORA PLASTIC MODEL KITS

Three super-hero model kits are being taken out of production, so if you want them and haven't bought them yet, you'd better do so QUICK! The three are: Superboy, Robin and Wonder Woman. Three new kits that might interest some of you out there are: Archie's Car ($2.00) with figures of Archie, Veronica and Hot Dog; Land Of The Giants spaceship ($2.00); and The Voyager vehicle from Fantastic Voyage ($1.50).

CARTOONIST PROfiles is an 8½" X 11", 75page, glossy paper quarterly magazine that features "definitive articles by and about today's top professional cartoonists in every branch of the art. Authoritative because its producer is himself a syndicated cartoonist who also edits the official magazine of the National Cartoonists Society, knows professionals everywhere personally, and is in daily contact with them. Their methods, routines, personal opinions, etc., are covered in depth." — the preceding is quoted directly from an ad appearing in Writer's Digest for Jan. 1969. Among others featured in the first issue (Feb. 1969) are: Milton Caniff, Walt Disney, Bob Kane, and Mort Walker. Photos and cartoons are included. A year's subscription (4 issues) is $6.00; single copies are $2.50 each. The mailing address is Cartoonist Profiles, P.O. Box 325, Fairfield, Conn. 06430. When ordering send full name and address including Zip Code. I have not seen the Magazine myself, and thus can not recommend it personally. (Thanks to Paul Leiffer for this item)

A half hour TV pilot film is being shot in the Fiji Islands for a projected series of new Terry And The Pirates episodes. The film stars a grown-up Terry with a 14-year old sidekick. The story concerns mining the ocean bottom for food, and the producers are reportedly employing an "outer space gimmick." -from the Dec. 25th edition of Variety.

A Movie featuring Mandrake The Magician is to be filmed in England this Spring. The "mostly live-action" feature is being produced by Al Brodax, who produced the Beatle's Yellow Submarine film.

The Feb. issue of Eye magazine (50¢) has an article on Marvel Comics that has to win some sort of prize for inaccurate reporting (How many times can you stand to read the Human Torch refered to as The Flame!). However, a miniature Spider-Man comic is pasted to the cover of the issue to tempt all the True Believers. This mini-disaster is a ineptly butchered version of the "Birth Of A Super-Hero" story.

Ken Viola reports..."Steve Ditko has given up comics for a while because of his illness. He doesn't want to have to break deadlines." Ken, by the way, has has sold a THANE story to Warren Publications, reviving the hope of a swords and sorcery series or magazine from that company. The story's entitled, "Sands Of Time."

MARVEL

Two of the Marvel titles we reported canceled last issue have been given a reprieve, and have gone on a bi-monthly schedule. Doctor Strange and Nick Fury, Agent of SHIELD are not on the release schedule for March, but will return in April. Captain Savage will also become a bi-monthly starting with the issue on sale in March(no April issue). Captain Marvel will also miss the April release (due to not being able to meet the printing date that issue); and, although the indicia for that issue will say it is a bi-monthly, the book will remain a monthly. Although advertized as scheduled to appear in Marvel Super-Heroes # 21, the Starhawk strip will not be published. Instead, and for several issues, the title will reprint recent (early '60's) material such as early Avengers and X-Men tales. However, new material should be appearing in the magazine within a few months. The first (pre-series) Ant-Man story will be reprinted soon. The Marvel annuals this year will probably be nearly all reprint, with a few new pages (pin-ups, etc.). The Fantastic Four Big Little Book, although written by an outside writer, was drawn by Herb Trimpe and John Verpoorten. Starting with issue # 58, the X-Men book will revert to one 20 page story per issue, drawn by Neal Adams. Plans to publish a second 25¢ western title with new material have been temporarily shelved.

Jim Steranko is still working on his fantasy strip, TALON, and a new SF strip, O'RYAN'S ODYSSEY, but neither of the strips has yet been scheduled for any book. Frank Brunner, fan-newly-turned-pro artist, has done some work for Marvel. The first piece of work of his you'll probably see is his inking job on the 10 page filler in Silver Surfer # 6. Jack Kirby has moved to California, following another living legend of Comicdom on the westward trek, Jerry Seigel (creator of Superman). Archie Goodwin is currently scripting Captain Marvel, which means there are some plot changes in the offing. John Buscema will be doing some upcoming Captain America stories, as will Gene Colon. No new permanent artist has been assigned to the strip. Roy Thomas is now scripting Daredevil more or less regularly. Gene Colon will return as artist on the strip soon. Colon drew three issues of The Avengers; Barry Smith drew the two following his (at least one of these inked by Syd Shores); after which Sal Buscema takes over the feature.

Though no details are available at this time, Marvel is planning to publish several new, non super-hero titles in the near future.

NATIONAL--DC

To clear up a few items left over from last issue: The last issue of The Spectre is # 10; the last issue of The Hawk And The Dove is # 6; the new, revised House Of Secrets book will appear some time during the summer. The last issue of Captain Action will be # 5. The book is being folded at the request of Ideal Toys because the doll is being taken off the market shortly. Anthro will miss publishing one issue (the June issue), however, issue # 6 will be dated August. Wally Wood will be inking Howie Post's pencils from now on, allowing Post to devote more time to his syndicated newspaper strip, The Dropouts. Starting with the June issues (on sale in April), the will be a change in the line-up of features in Action and Adventure Comics. The Supergirl strip takes over the entire issue of Adventure, with occasional back stories featuring the members of the Legion of Super-Pets, when space permits. The Action Comics line-up will then consist of the Superman lead feature followed by a short Legion Of Super-Heroes tale. These new Legion stories will emphasize the adventures of only one or two heroes at a time, with heavier reliance on character development. Starting with issue # 5, the Bat Lash artwork will take on a new look. The art style will be straight, in contrast with the present humorous style. However, much of the accustomed humor will still be carried in the dialogue. If I may be allowed a personal comment, this new, realistic Bat Lash art is some of the best work Nick Cardy has ever done. Denny O'Neil is now scripting The Challengers Of The Unknown, and he is changing the format somewhat. One of the Challs will eventually be knocked off (though preserved cryogenically for possible revival); a girl will take his place; and they will seriously consider breaking up the group.

DC Special # 4 will not be the All-Joe Kubert issue as originally planned. Joe was not able to get the book together in time, due to a heavy work-load, and a new feature was thrown together at the last moment. The book is now tentatively titled "Thirteen Stories To Shock!" Further details next issue. A new-old policy is going into effect for Showcase, starting with issue # 82. New features will run in two or three consecutive issues of the magazine, and sales figures scrutinized before giving the feature a book of its' own. Nightmaster will run for three issues in Showcase. Joe Kubert's new Indian strip will be delayed for several months. There will be a Scooter and a Sugar And Spike annual this summer; however, there will be no romance annual this year.

Australia's Stanley Pitt, a comics illustrator in the Alex Raymond tradition (in case you're not familiar with his work), is illustrating several stories for the Witching Hour title. He has been mailed at least three scripts, and at least one completed job has been returned, though it has not been scheduled for a definite spot as of yet. Werner Roth is once again drawing Romance stories for DC, as is Frank Giacoia. Gil Kane will be handling the art chores on Teen Titans an Challengers Of The Unknown. To correct some Teen Titans info from last issue: The Hawk And The Dove will not appear in the last instalment of the 3-part TT tale. Since the final issue of their own magazine will be released before that instalment appears, they were dropped from the TT story after only one guest appearance. Marv Wolfman & Len Wein plotted the second part of the TT 3-parter, not Neal Adams as I previously mentioned. The last part of the 3-parter will only be 15-16 pages in length; the book will also contain an 8-page Wonder Girl story, written by Marvin Wolfman, which works out a logical explanation of her existance, and will introduce her new costume.
By the way, Marv and Len (the only writing-team in comics, to my knowledge) are splitting up the team in order for both of them to write on their own. However, several of the stories they wrote together (Phantom Stranger # 3; and a war story called "The Pool" —illustrated by Russ Heath—) have yet to see print. Jack Sparling is doing artwork for the teen humor books. Mike Sekowsky is doing both story and dialogue in addition to penciling for the two titles he edits, Wonder Woman and Metal Men. He has also penciled a Johnny Peril story, and done the layouts for Bat Lash # 6. Russ Heath will be handling the art on the Sgt. Rock strip, starting with issue # 208; Joe Kubert is still scripting the series, however. Gardner Fox is no longer scripting any stories for DC. Bob Kanigher has scripted a Lois Lane tale in which Lois tangles with Wonder Woman, thinking the Amazon Ace is after her (Super)man. Having seen Neal Adams' art-job on Brave And Bold # 84 (Batman & Sgt. Rock), all I can say is ARGGGH! Neal has captured the early, pre-Robin Batman in a version that is the <u>definative</u> end-all. This will be a long-remembered item. The Brave And Bold team-up for issue # 85 is Batman and Green Arrow. Phil Seuling, Brooklyn's Comic King, has scripted several Date With Debbie and Witching Hour stories.

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For new readers: The number in parenthesis following a listing indicates the month/day of that issue's release date.

<u>OUR ARMY AT WAR</u> (No. 206, May) "There's A War On!" ; a psychological war that the enemy is waging in order to break Sgt. Rock. (3/4)
<u>TOMAHAWK</u> (No. 122, June) "Must The Brave Die?!" and "Brass Button's Double War!" comprise the story roster. (3/4)
<u>WONDER WOMAN</u> (No. 182, June) Diana Prince finds, as must all super-heroines, that there is "A Time To Love, And A Time To Die!" But that's what you get for wearing Mod wristwatches. (3/4)
<u>AQUAMAN</u> (No. 45. June) "Underworld Reward, Part 2" continues the saga of the undersea monarch's search for his kidnapped wife, which concludes in the next issue. (3/4)
<u>BATMAN</u> (No. 211, May) The Gotham Gladiator is forced to reveal his identity in "'Batman's" Big Blow-Off." (3/6)
<u>THE FLASH</u> (No. 188, May) Flash is strangely blinded, being able to see only in the green portion of the spectrum, when he confronts "The Most Colorful Villain Of All," in a story written by John Broome. (3/6)
<u>HOUSE OF MYSTERY</u> (No. 180, June) Gil Kane penciled and Wally Wood inked the cover of this issue. The same team is also responsable for the art chores on "Comes A Warrior," which, incidentally, was scripted by the former. Gil also supplied the art for a Mike Friedrich script entitled...."His Name Is...Cain Kane!" It's a little tale about the trials and tribulations of a comic book artist. (3/6)
<u>SUPERBOY</u> (No. 156, June)(Giant # 59) Two book-length novels, "The Enemy Superboy" and "Superboy's Farewell To Smallville," and one short story, "The Super-Hungry Super-Heroes," comprise the contents of this reprint issue. (3/6)
<u>OUR FIGHTING FORCES</u> (No. 119, June) Robert Kanigher wrote this issue's Hunter's Hellcats saga, "Bedlam In Berlin." The story, based on a true War incident, follows the Hellcats' attempts to flood the sewers of the German capitol while disguised as Nazis. (3/11)
<u>ANGEL AND THE APE</u> (No. 4, June) This is the first issue under the new policy of three stories per issue. The 12 page lead story, entitled "Remember The Chow Mein!" has Angel and Sam meeting the famed Oriental detective, Charlie Chum, and his almost innumerable brood. A 6 page story relates the confusion that ensues when Angel's date meets her somewhat off-beat partner. The final five-pager concerns Sam's confrontation with an ill-mannered TV Talk Show host. (3/11)
<u>JERRY LEWIS</u> (No. 112, June) "Jerry Meets The Flash;" need anything further be said?!! (3/13)
<u>WORLD'S FINEST</u> (No. 184, May) This issue's imaginary novel concerns the death of Batman and "Robin's Revenge." The JLA and Batgirl are featured on the cover, and for the first time in the history of the magazine, Batman does not appear in the cover scene (altho his picture is seen as a part of the logo. The Editor's Roundtable features "J'onn J'onzz Farewell To Earth." (3/13)
<u>JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA</u> (No. 71, May) J'onn J'onzz says another and possibly final farewell to Earth in "...And So My World Ends!" The entire population of Mars has been murdered, and the Martian Manhunter is out for blood! (3/13)
<u>SHOWCASE</u> (No. 82, May) NIGHTMASTER makes the first of his three consecutive appearances in Showcase starting in this issue. The Sword and Sorcery epic is written by Denny O'Neil, penciled by Jerry Grandenetti and inked by Dick Giordano under the editorship of Murray Boltinoff. Joe Kubert drew the cover. (3/13)
<u>THE PHANTOM STRANGER</u> (No. 1, June) The Phantom Stranger wins his own magazine, and the format, for the first few books at least, will be the same as in his Showcase appearance; a new story written around two reprint tales. Mike Friedrich wrote this one; Bill Draut supplied the art. (3/18)
<u>THE SPECTRE</u> (No. 10, June) Four stories are featured in this, The Spectre's last issue. 1) "Footsteps Of Disaster" written by Mike Friedrich, art by Jerry Grandenetti and George Roussos; 2) "Hit And Run," script by Steve Skeates, art by Jose Delbo; 3) "How Much Can A Guy Take?," Jack Miller is the writer, Jack Sparling the artist; 4) "Will The Real Killer Please Rise!," script by Miller, art by Sparling and Roussos. (3/18)
<u>TEEN TITANS</u> (No. 21, June) The Titans teamup with The Hawk And The Dove to crash "The Citadel Of Fear," in this sequel to last issue's adventure. (3/18)
<u>STRANGE ADVENTURES</u> (No. 218, June) This issue reprints the second half of the Atomic Knights origin tale; "The Pit And The Pendulum" Adam Strange story; and a story from the Interplanetary Insurance Investigator series that appeared in early issues of Mystery In Space. Reprinting of these old series stories, whenever space permits, will be a regular policy for the magazine in the future. (3/18)
<u>SUPERMAN</u> (No. 216, May) A Superman war-book? Well, that's almost what you have in "The Soldier Of Steel," in which Superman is pitted against a giant enemy soldier called the King Cong. What really casts the issue in a war-book mold, however, is the fact that the story was written by Bob Kanigher, drawn by Andru and Esposito, and the cover is drawn by Joe Kubert. (3/20)
<u>WINDY & WILLY</u> (No. 1, June) Fresh from their Showcase appearance, the pair get their own bi-monthly mag. (3/20)
<u>LOIS LANE</u> (No. 92, May) Lois becomes a centaur (or is it centauress?) when she falls victim to "The Unbreakable Spell." Super-Horse, who (if you remember) has a similar hang-up, also play a part in the tale. (3/25)
<u>ACTION</u> (No. 376, May) The Superman half of the issue is the first part in a two part tale in which a new way of killing The Man Of Steel is uncovered, and as far as the villain is concerned, it's "The Only Way To Kill Superman!" "The Hated Girl Of Steel" is the concluding half of a Supergirl two-parter. (3/27)
<u>ADVENTURE</u> (No. 380, May) "The Legion's Space Odyssey" is a futuristic version of the original Odyssey written by Jim Shooter and based on a plot by Nelson Bridwell. The story points up the start of a romance between Bouncing Boy and Duo Damsel. This is also the Legion's last issue in Adventure Comics before moving over to Action, starting with the June issue. (3/27)
<u>DETECTIVE</u> (No. 387, May) This issue marks the 30th Anniversary of THE BATMAN strip. To honor the event, a reprint of "The Case Of The Chemical Syndicate," the very first Batman story, is included along with an updated version of the story as it might have happened today. The new version, written by Mike Friedich, is called "The Cry Of Night Is Kill!" (3/27)

<u>OUR ARMY AT WAR</u> (No. 207, June) "A Sparrow's Prayer" was originally scheduled to appear in issue # 194 under the title "A Prayer From A Battle Sparrow." The story, written by Robert Kanigher, is about a soldier who talks to God! (4/1)
<u>CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN</u> (No. 68, July) Denny O'Neil takes over writting chores on this strip starting with "One Of Us Is A Madman!" Jack Sparling pencols; Vince Colletta inks. (4/1)
<u>THE ATOM AND HAWKMAN</u> (No. 43, July) Hawkman combats a new villain, The Ghost, in"Come To My Hanging!", a story scripted by Bob Kanigher (who also created The Gentleman Ghost, the Golden Age Hawkman's arch-foe). Unlike the original Ghost, however, this new villain really is a specter; a fact which Hawkman refuses to accept! Denny O'Neil wrote this issues Atom tale, "Buzzin', Buzzin', Who's Got The Buzzin'?" (4/1)

SUPERBOY (No. 157, June) "Get Lost, Superboy! Who Needs You!?" is the title of this issues saga; and no, it wasn't written by Stan Lee, despite the title! (4/1)

THE UNEXPECTED (No. 113, July) Johnny Peril cavorts his merry way through a "Tunnel Of Fear, Shriek Of Vengeance!" (4/3)

G.I. COMBAT (No. 136, July) The Haunted Tank and its' crew battle a submarine(believe it or not!) in "Kill Now - Pay Later!" (4/8)

SUPERMAN (No. 217, July)(Giant #60) The theme of this Giant is famous firsts. included are; The Menace Of Metallo; The Super-Duel In Space (1st Braniac); The Girl In Superman's Past (1st Lori Lemaris); The Three Superman From Krypton; The First Super-Girl (one chapter from the full length novel in issue # 123. Cover is by Curt Swan and Vince Colletta. (4/8)

JIMMY OLSEN (No. 120, June) Jaunty James acquires hyper-powers in "Jimmy Olsen's Super-Punch." The issue also includes a 6-pager which introduces a new villain, The Climate King. (4/10)

GREEN LANTERN (No. 69, June) Hal Jordan gives up his insurance agent/investigator job and Carol Ferris once more enters his life in "If Earth Fails The Test - It Means WAR!" Script by John Broome; pencils by Gil Kane; inks by Wally Wood. (4/10)

METAL MEN (No. 38, July) The Metal Band conducts a "Witch Hunt: 1969" when they go after The Black Coven. (4/10)

STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES (No. 145, July) The first time Von Hammer downed the Hangman, the French ace walked away from the wreck scarred for life. Then the Enemy Ace downed the Hangman for the final time; or so he thought! But in the "Return Of The Hangman," he finds that his foe has walked away from this one too....Well, not quite walked...! (4/15)

WITCHING HOUR (No. 3, July) Credits for this issue's stories are: prologue - Alex Toth and Dick Giordano; "The Turn Of The Wheel" - script by Don Arneson, pencils by Toth, inks by Colletta; "Death Watch" - script by Alan Riefe, art by Sparling; "...And In A Far Off Land!" - script by Steve Skeates, art by Berni Wrightson; epilogue by Sekowsky and Giordano. (4/15)

CAPT. ACTION (No. 5, July) This last issue of the series was written and penciled by Gil Kane and inked by Wally Wood. "A Mind Divided" concerns the Captain's battle with a Minute Man-type group. (4/17)

BATMAN (No. 212, June) Batman solves "The Baffling Deaths Of The Crime Czar." The cover depicts Commissioner Gordon and Batman standing over the corpse of the Crime Czar. Gordon asks, "He's been snot drowned and poisoned; but what killed him?" To which Batman replies, "Of natural causes, of course!" Elementry, my dear Commissioner! (4/17)

THE FLASH (No. 189, June) Flash and Kid Flash star in "Death-Touch Of The Blue Ghost," a book-lengther scripted by John Broome. (4/17)

BAT LASH (No. 5, July) Bat meets his Mexican counterpart, a mustachioed rake named Sergio Aragones, and Mexican-American relations will never be the same. This issue starts the more realistic, "new-look" artwork. (4/22)

BRAVE & BOLD (No. 84, July) Batman and Sgt. Rock are this issue's team-up. However, this is a young Batman, just starting his crime-fighting career, and before meeting Robin. The tale is entitled, "The Angel, The Rock, And The Cowl." (4/22)

THE HAWK AND THE DOVE (No. 6, July) For this final issue, Gil Kane wrote and penciled, "Judgement In A Small, Dark Place." John Celardo handled the inking chore. For a change, a more or less definative ending will be written to end the series. (4/22)

WORLD'S FINEST (No. 185, June) Superman and Batman are kidnapped by a gypsy spaceman in "The Galactic Gamblers." The Editor's Roundtable features Tommy Tomorrow in "The Amazing Future Toys." (4/24)

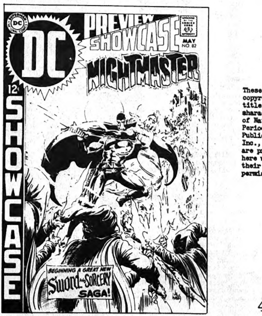
JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA (No. 72, June) "Thirteen Days To Doom!" is the title; and that's about all I know of this issue. (4/24)

SHOWCASE (No. 83, June) The second issue of NIGHTMASTER. Berni Wrightson takes over the artchores, starting with this chapter. However, Joe Kubert draws the cover. (4/24)

DETECTIVE (No. 388, June) The Joker plots to become "Public Luna-tic Number One," the first criminal on the Moon! The crime he'll attempt to achive this goal — killing Batman! "Surprise! This'll Kill You!" is the first half of a two part Batgirl story written by Frank Robbins, art by Gil Kane and Murphy Anderson. (4/29)

ADVENTURE (No. 381, June) Supergirl takes over the entire book starting in this issue. In "The Supergirl Gang," the Girl Of Steel becomes the leader of a criminal organization. Story is by Cary Bates; art by Win Mortimer and Jack Abel. Batgirl makes a guest-starring appearance. (4/29)

ACTION (No. 377, June) "The Cage Of Doom" is the title of this issue's Superman saga. Timber Wolf falls victim to the addictive effect of "The Forbidden Fruit", and tries to get his fellow legionnaires hooked on the halucinagen as well, in the first appearance of the Legion Of Super-Heroes strip in Action. (4/29)



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GOLD KEY

Gold Key is now including a check list of all their next-month's releases in all of their titles. Therefore, there is no need to duplicate that listing here, and I will not do so in the future.

July will see the release of two new titles:"Mr. Collossal," a TV item about a P.T. Barnum-type wheeler-dealer in ancient Rome; and, "Judge Colt," a Gold Key original western about a "hangin' judge." Also set for release is another TV item, a magazine version of the "Fantastic Voyage" show (art by Paul Norris and Mike Royer); and a second issue of George Of The Jungle.

The 50¢, monthly Golden Comics Digest goes on sale in May, and will carry a June cover date. There will also be a 50¢ Tarzan Digest this summer; but whether or not this is a one-shot or a regular publication, I am not sure. The Digest will include old reprints as well as some new material. Mike Royer has adapted two of the Jungle Tales Of Tarzan, "Tarzan Saves The Moon," and "The Nightmare," for this edition. Royer, who has inked Magnus, Robot Fighter #'s 25 - 28, is currently scripting issue # 29.

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BOOKS

All In Color For A Dime will be published in a $12.50 hard-cover edition for Christmas release this year, and will be a selection of the Nostalgia Book Club. Ace Books will publish a paperback edition of the volume a year after that. For those not familiar with the title, the book is built around a series of articles from the fanzine, XERO, which carried that name. Editors of the edition are Richard A. Lupoff and Don Thompson.

Currently available from Hastings House, Publishers (10 East 40th St., New York, N.Y. 10016) is "Rube Goldberg vs. The Machine Age," a pictorial autobiography of the famed cartoonist. The volume is 8½" X 10", contains 256 pages and over 300 illustrations and drawings. Price is $8.95.

New from Fawcett paperbacks is the latest Johnny Hart collection oc B.C. cartoons, "B.C. Big Wheel?" (#D2033, 50¢) Also available is the first collection drawn from Parker and Hart's Wizard Of Id strip, "The King Is A Fink!" (#D2043, 60¢).

Avon Books has just published two paperback editions of comic strip reprints. "The Heart Of Juliet Jones" (#S386, 60¢) and "Mary Worth" (#S387, 60¢) each contain one story taken from the dailies. Unfortunately, the layout leaves much to be desired. And could it possibly be?....Could Neal Adams possibly have "ghosted" the Juliet Jones strip (at least the last half or so of the book??)??? Do mine eyes deceive me?? For the fantasy fans in the audience, Avon will be printing two more books in thr Tros series towards the end of the year. "Queen Cleopatra," and "The Purple Pirate" are due out in Oct. & Dec., respectively.

Doc Savage # 34, for March, is titled, Mad Eyes. April's release, # 35, is called The Squeeking Goblins.

The Man From U.N.C.L.E. # 18, The Unfair Fare Affair, is reprinted from the English edition. The Peter Leslie novel was originally published in July, 1968.

The ninth Avengers novel, "Moon Express," by Norman Daniels is now available (#X1658, 60¢). Berkley Medallion has also re-published the first few books in the series with new covers, just for you completists!

The fourth book in Michael Moorcock's Runestaff saga, The Secret Of The Runestaff, is due out from Lancer Books this month.

Two new reprints from the Captain Future pulps are due out from Popular Library; both written by Edmond Hamilton. "Outlaws Of The Moon" in April;"Comet King" in May.

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STAR TREK

April 1st is the release date for Bantam Books third volume of short stories based on the TV series' scripts, Star Trek #3.

For those interested in original stories based on the show, Whitman's STAR TREK: Mission To Horatius is written by SF author, Mack Reynolds. Although this edition is aimed at young readers, it is quite readable. So don't let the fact that it's a "kiddie" book prevent a dyed-in-the-wool Star Trek fan from enjoying himself. Price is 69¢ in most places; book number 1s1549.

The English weekly comic paper, Joe 90, is currently running a 12" X 20", center-spread, painted (color), Star Trek comic strip. Although there are a number of terrible basic mistakes, such as calling Captain Kirk,Captain Kurt and having the Enterprise landing on a planet, the strip is worth getting for the artwork alone (which is really something when you consider that the show has not yet played in Great Britain, and the artist is working from photographs).

A year's subscription costs $7.50. Publisher is: Century 21 Publishing Ltd., 167 Fleet Street, London E.C. 4, England. The strip just started this past January, so back issuesto # 1 may still be available.

The picture at the right is Xeroxed from the colored strip.

FANZINE INDEX

Compiled and rated by:—— JOHN MC GEEHAN
405 EAST FIFTH STREET
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92701

EXPLANATION OF LISTING CODE:
In order, the listing consists of: title, latest issue, date received, no. of pages (no. of blank pages), address, printing process, price folded (price flat), rating number. "as" indicates amateur strips. "ERB" indicates an Edgar Rice Burroughs zine.

RATING SYSTEM:
(5) a zine worth any fan's money.
(4) for all but the most discriminating fan.
(3) an average zine for buying after 4s and 5s.
(2) for fans with charitable or masochistic tendancies.
(1) for completists, friends and parents.

Acord's Ads 1—Dec. 23, 6 pgs, Gary Acord, 1119 North Clinton, Dallas, Texas 75208. Ditto, free. This is either an adzine or Gary's For Sale listing of material, including his various zines. I have listed other adzines in the past that were little or nothing more than For Sale/Want listings of the publishers, and some were advertized and sold at a high price as an adzine, so I am listing Gary's free adzine until I learn that it is merely a For Sale listing and not intended to be an adzine.

Black Mystery 1—Jan. 2, 14(1) pgs, Steve Shipley, 3824 Jackman Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43612. (mostly as & artwork), Litho, 50(0), the material rates a three; but the high price lowers the rating to a 2 & even a 1 to some. Steve says future issues will give you more for your money, and I expect the next one to rate an overall 3 and not just on the material.

Bogeyman Comics 1—Dec. 21, 32 - 6½" X 8½" pgs, Gary E. Arlington, (San Francisco Comic Book Company), 3339 23rd St., San Francisco, Calif. 94110. (as - EC horror type stories), Litho, 35(?), the rating depends on your liking for as in the EC vein and how good an imitation of EC style work you consider them to be. The price, layout, etc. is well done, so if you favor the material the issue rates a 5.

Canada's Best 1—Dec. 12, 22 pgs, Art Cooper, 8 Searle Ave., Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. (as), Litho, 60(0), a 2 for the price.

Capt. Biljo Presents 1—Jan. 15, 28 pgs, Billy Joe White, 1812 Jackson St., Columbia, Mo. 65201. (as), Litho, 50(0), The first 200 orders also receive a free copy of the 16(1) page, dittoed first issue of Capt. Biljo Comics. CBP carries a reprint of a strip from Alter Ego #7 and if you have the original and don't desire to own reprints, the rating might be only a 4 for you; but to those who don't have it and are a fan of excellant as, or are a fan of Biljo's work, the issue rates a 5.

Cartoonist's Showcase 5—Dec. 21, Edwin Aprill Jr., 5272 West Liberty Rd., Ann Arbor, Mich. 48103. Litho, $5.00(0), a 5 to those who want reprints of the Modesty Blaise, Russ Manning's Tarzan, Al Williamson's Secret Agent X-9 and James Bond daily newspaper strips. The issue contains 20 pages of reprints (large on fine paper) of each of the 4 strips, totaling 80 pages.

Comic Book Fan Fair 7—Dec. 19, 10 pgs, Greg Potter, 97 Massasoit Dr., Warick, R.I. 02888. (almost all as), Mimeo, 15(5), 1.
Comic Book Fan Fair 8—Jan. 20, 26(1) pgs, Greg Potter, address above, (only 10 pgs of as), Mimeo, 35(10), 3.

Comic Center 1—Dec. 4, 8 pgs, Alan Mac Innes, 5 Hawthorne Cl., Andover, Mass. 01810. (mostly as), Ditto, 10(10), 2. The next issue will cost 20(10).

Comic Comments 3—Jan. 14, 22(1) pgs, Charles Eric Spanier, 52 Seneca St., Staten Island, N.Y. 10310. Ditto, 30(5), 3.

Comicology 2—Dec. 13, (pg # not given), Douglas Fratz, R.R. #1, Accident, Maryland 21520. Mimeo, 40(10), 4.

Comic Crusader 4—Dec. 21, 16 pgs + 10(5) dittoed LoC suppliment, Martin L. Greim, Box 132, Dedham, Mass. 02026. Litho, 25(10?), 5. The next issue will cost 35(?).

Comic Forum 3—Dec. 17, 24 pgs, Billy Mc Kinnon, 2352 Albans, Houston, Texas 77005. Ditto/Litho, 20(10), 3.

√ Comic Reader, The 71—Dec. 28, 6 pgs, Mark Hanerfeld, 42-42 Colden St., Flushing, N.Y. 11355. Litho, 15(10), 5.

Comic Strips 8—Dec. 25, Harvey Sobel, 11 Bette Lane, Commack, N.Y. 11725. (as), Ditto, 22(10), 1..

Differo 1—Dec. 10, 44(3) pgs, Differo Pub., Box 190, Jackson Heights, N.Y. 11372. (mostly as & artwork), Litho, 70(0), 3.

Dimension 1—Jan. 7, 10 pgs, Terry Callen, 100 Atlantic Ave., Marblehead, Mass. 01945. Mimeo/Litho, 25(5), 2.

Emperial Comics 4—Jan. 14, 40 pgs, Dan Van Der Rynden, 1552 Loretta Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43211. (as), Ditto, 30(5), 3.

E Pluribus Marvel 5—Jan. 10, 16 pgs, Jaz Zaremba, 21000 Covello St., Canoga Park, Calif. 91303. Litho, 20(0), 5. This issue has an excellent article on NPP comics and future issues will also cover companies other than Marvel.

√ ERB-dom 25—Jan. 8, 20 pgs, Camile Cazedessus Jr., Box 550, Evergreen, Colo. 80439. (ERB), Litho, 50(0), 5.

ERBivore 4—Dec. 19, 12 pgs, Phillip J. Currie, 1224 Ingledene Dr., Oakville, Ontario, Canada. (ERB & OAK), Litho, 50(0), The only thing about the pub that isn't of 5 quality is the price and since there are so few Burroughs oriented zines around, the price doesn't much count with us ERB & O.A. Kline devotees. So it rates a 5 with us and less to those who aren't that interested in ERB & OAK.

Fandom Newsletter 13—Jan. 13, 10 pgs, Charles Korbas, 379 Virgil Rd., Dryden, N.Y. 13053. Ditto, 5(10), a 5 for those interested in trying to be a completist or wanting some idea of what zines are out and what they are about.

√ Fandom's Agent 6 & 7 combined into one issue—Jan. 6, 48 pgs, Chuck Wooley, Box 29, Peoria, Ill. 61601. (adzine), Litho, $1.00(0) for the double issue, this issue contains 16 pgs of comic book cover reprints (total of 64 covers) and rates a 5 to anyone desiring such material and less to those who only make use of the 17 pgs pf ads.

Fan Focus 2—Jan, 18, 30 pgs, Robert Solomon, 9702 Beverlywood St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90034. Mimeo, 20(10), 3.

Funny World 10—Dec. 12, 68(2) pgs, Mike Barrier, 5112 P St., Little Rock, Ark. 72207. Mimeo, 75(0), FW is devoted to 'funny animal strips,' especially Disney characters and anyone who is at all interested will want this 5 rated zine. Mike used to circulate FW with K-Alpha, but the demand for copies grew and this 10th issue is the first to be sold on the open market.

Inkling 2—Dec. 7, 28 - 5½" X 8½" pgs, Robert Koppany, 2334 Halm Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90034. (adzine), Litho, 6¢ stamp(?), will insure you receiving the next issue with the cost of the pub being free , rating depends on the benefit the ads the issue contains give you.

K-ALPHA 51—Jan. 10, 200(17) pgs + 2 for Fred Norwood's plastic covers, Fred Patten, 8943 East Arcadia Ave., Apt. 14, San Gabriel, Calif. 91775. Ditto/Mimeo/Litho, membership, 5.

Marvel Horizon 1—Dec. 10, 16(8) pgs, Dan Campbell, 335 East Columbus Place, Long Branch, N.J. 07740. Ditto, 15 + stamp(5), 1.

Mithras 3—Jan. 18, 44(1) pgs, Charles Korbas, 379 Virgil Rd., Dryden, N.Y. 13053. Ditto, 25(0-free upon request), 3.

Motley Memos 4—Dec. 16, 20(1) pgs, John Kowal, Route 1, 5079 Wedgewood Rd., Medina, Ohio 44256. (adzine), Ditto, 20(x), 3.

Myriad 3—Jan. 10, 60(2) pgs, Steven Carlberg, 2811 Summer Grove Dr., Shreveport, La. 71108. Ditto/Mimeo, membership, there is no waiting list, so if you're interested in joining this apa, send a s.s.a.e. to Steve for details. All you have to do is publish or have published enough suitable material for inclusion in the pub & pay 75¢ a year dues to become a member of this comic amateur press association.

Newfangles 17—Dec. 12, 6 pgs, Don & Margaret Thompson, 8786 Hendricks Rd., Mentor, Ohio 44060. (news, info & comic review zine), Mimeo, 10(folded in 3 & mailed in a legal size envelope),5.

New World Of Comics 23—Jan. 3, 14(2) pgs, David Carmichael, 1805 32nd St., Vernon, British Columbia, Canada. Mimeo, 15(10), 3.

OAF 21—Jan. 2, 20 pgs, Bart Bush, 713 Sugar Maple, Ponca City, Okla. 74601. Ditto, 20(10), 3.

√ Rocket's Blast, The 61—Jan. 2, 88pgs, Gordon B. Love, 9875 SW 212 St., Miami, Fla. 33157. (adzine), Litho, 65(10), 5.

Sense Of Wonder 6—Dec. 28, 44 pgs, Bill Schelly, 2211, Carol Dr., Lewiston, Idaho 83501. Ditto, 44(0), 5.

Splash Page 2—Dec. 4, 52(2) pgs, John Scheinfeld, 6928 North Barnett Ln., Milwaukee, Wisc. 53217. Mimeo, 35(10), 3.

Star Studded Comics 14—Jan. 4, 52 pgs, Larry Herndon, 1830 Highland Dr., Carrollton, Texas 75006. (as), Litho, 75(0), 5.

Statue Comic Collectors 2—Jan. 18, 40(5) pgs, Jack Reynolds, 76 Brighton Rd., N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30309. Ditto, $1.00(0), The issue contains dittoed tracings of and data on over 40 old comic characters, a checklist of Quality Comics, and an interview with Paul Reinman, along with some other material; but the price is much too high, twice what is's worth to anyone except a newcomer to fandom who needs and wants the data badly enough to pay for it.

Supreme Publications Presents: Captain Marvel, Man Of The Kree 1—Dec. 30, 12 - 7" X 8½" + 2(1) - 8½" X 11" advert., Joe Muscatello, Route 1, Box 329, Bluefield, W. Va. 24701. Litho, 50(folded in ½ and mailed in a legal size envelope), 3. Next issue: Thor.

Voice Of Comiodom 14—Jan. 7, 12 pgs, Rudy Franke, 3413 Mt. St. Helena Dr., San Jose, Calif. 95127, Litho, 25(0), 5.

OTHER ZINES OF INTEREST TO COMIC FANS

Aleph Null 1—Jan. 20, 34(3) pgs, Aleph Null, 4232 North Kedvale, Chicago, Ill. 60641. Mimeo, 50 + 6¢ stamp(0?), this pub is devoted to science fiction & comics and this first issue has mainly SF material. The poor printing rates it a 2 to the comic & SF multi-fan, while the material for the price rates a 3 at best.

Classic Film Collector 22—Jan. 15, 64 - 12" X 16" pulp pgs, Samuel K, Rubin, 734 Philadelphia St., Indiana, Pa. 15701. Litho, $1.00, a 5 to cinematography or film fans.

Cooper's Hero-Hobby 15—Dec. 26, 36 pgs, John R. Cooper, Rt. 1, Box 36A, Clarksburg, W. Va. 26301. Mimeo, 75(0) for one issue and $1.00 for two issues, a 5 to multi-fans of radio, pulps, comics, etc., and less to those who aren't interested in the variety of fields covered.

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